Increasing quota of PDS supply

4022. SHRI SITARAM YECHURY :Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government have received any representation regarding increasing the quota in supply of foodgrains, kerosene and sugar through PDS shops;

(b) if so, the action taken thereon ;

(c) whether it is a fact that the ration shop dealers are facing acute problems due to the reduction of supplies; and

(d) if so, the remedial measures being taken therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH): (a) and (b) Allocation of wheat and rice under Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) to Above Poverty Line (APL) category to various States and Union Territories (UTs) has been rationalized from June 2006 and April 2007. Following this, requests have been received by the Central Government from some States and UTs for enhancement of the allocation. Considering these requests and also with a view to stabilize prices of wheat in the open market, the Central Government has made an additional allocation of wheat for the APL category as given in a statement (*See* below).

Allocation of PDS kerosene is made by the Government of India to different States/UTs on a quarterly basis for distribution under Public Distribution System (PDS). Further distribution within the States/UTs through their PDS network is the responsibility of the concerned States/ UTs. In view of requests received from various State Governments for increasing the SKO allocation, the Government of India commissioned a detailed study of kerosene demand in the country, through the National Council of Applied Economic Research (NCAER) in December 2004. NCAER submitted its report in October 2005. NCAER has *inter alia* recommended to restrict the subsidy on kerosene to Below Poverty Line (BPL) families only. Also, Dr. Rangarajan Committee constituted by the Government to formulate a long-term pricing policy on petroleum products has recommended to restrict PDS SKO subsidy to BPL families only. The

Government has accepted the recommendations of Dr. Rangarajan Committee Report and has decided 'in principle ' to restrict subsidy on PDS Kerosene to BPL families only.

The Government has recently received a representation from the Government of Arunachal Pradesh requesting for one time additional allocation of levy sugar for ensuing festivals. However, State Government has been informed that no additional allocation of levy sugar is made to any State/UT.

(c) No,Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Statement

Additional allocation of wheat made for the APL category under TPDS.

Year 2006-07 (In Tons)

Name of the Month	Quantity of APL wheat allocated
September, 2006	100,000
October, 2006	100,000
November, 2006	100,000
December, 2006	99,750
January, 2007	1,19,000
February, 2007	1,19,000
March, 2007	1,19,000
TOTAL:	7,56,750

Year 2007-08 (In Tons)

Name of the Month	Quantity of APL wheat allocated
April,2007	100,000
May,2007	100,000
TOTAL:	200,000